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August 30th is the Date for the Opening of the Forsyth High School. Don't Forget it.

Washington Letter

That the United States could insure peace between this country and Germany and very probably could accomplish much in the direction of ending the war in Europe was the assurance given the Secretary of State this week by a well informed American who has just returned from six months in Germany, where he was in the closest touch with the foreign office. The plan he proposes is the sending of a special ambassador to the Hague to confer with such representative as Germany might send there. This man points out that Germany is greatly handicapped in the present negotiations by her inability to communicate with her ambassador in this country except through England or State Department. He is convinced that if the president could send to The Hague such a man as Elihu Root, who could treat face to face with some German authority of equal standing and ability the differences between the two nations could soon be settled. The American Ambassador would have no difficulty in communicating with Washington in code, while the German could communicate with Berlin by telephone. Secretary Lansing was further advised that, the difficulties between the United States and Germany having been disposed of, through the maintenance of the special embassy the influence of this country could be potentially exerted to bring about a termination of the war, always provided the ambassador chosen for the mission was a man of sufficient breadth and diplomatic experience.

Secretary Lansing's informant declared that The Hague would be far better for such negotiations than Berlin because it is neutral territory and because of the absence of a public sentiment inevitable in the capital of a warring nation and of a character which must hamper delicate negotiations. There is also involved in the suggestion the idea that the men who are now conducting the American negotiations at Berlin are not ideally fitted for the difficult post. Ambassador Gerard seems to have taken the wrong cue for successful work at that end of the line. He does not seem to be much in favor of the officials of the German Foreign Office and this lack of touch between our representative and the people with whom he must deal is hampering the situation. There has been complaint that both our Ambassador to Germany and other people connected with our present State Department work, both there and in neighboring countries, have exhibited not only lack of diplomacy but of neutrality as well, and by so doing have destroyed their usefulness to promote good and satisfactory relations either between this country and Germany, or between America and the other warring nations.

The gravity of the international situation has served to turn public attention toward the unpreparedness of the United States for war. Secretary Garrison has prepared a plan for increasing the standing army, now consisting of 91,708 officers and men, to 140,000 officers and men, and the militia organizations, now consisting of 127,000 officers and men, to 270,000. The president has finally given his consent to this program and the details are being worked out by the General Staff, while the Democratic press is making much of the prospect that this recommendation will be made to Congress. Unfortunately, however, a recommendation to Congress, even when it enjoys the belated approval of the president, is far from the accomplishment of legislation. It will be recalled that Mr. Garrison's very ability antagonized and alienated the members of his party in the last Congress and that the military committees of the two houses rejected his practically every recommendation and passed considerable legislation which he disapproved. It will also be recalled that it was the influence of the president himself which defeated the passage of Representative Gardner's resolution creating a commission empowered to investigate the military condition of the nation and which, it was hoped, would point the way to remedying many abuses and defects, some of which had been of long standing. So sternly did Wilson set his face against this all important preliminary step and against what he chose to regard as the danger of militarism, and so little support did Mr. Wilson give his Secretary of War, that it will be difficult for the Executive to persuade his followers in Congress that he is in earnest in any support he may now give to Mr. Garrison's recommendations.

The great trouble with any steps looking to an increase of military efficiency under a democratic administration is that there is little real sympathy with such steps in that party. The initial step in that direction must come from the Chairman of the Military Committee of the House, James Hay. The wobbly attitude of Mr. Hay's mind has been emphasized by Richard Harding Davis, the well known author, by the use of capitals in a recent announcement of Mr. Hay. In an interview, Mr. Hay said recently, "I recognize the need of some military legislation during the next session of Congress, and I intend to cooperate with the War Department if its recommendation meets the situation. Until the Department announces its policy I intend to refrain from the discussion of what I think we should do. If the recommendations of the War Department are feasible and appear to be the solution of problem presented, I will take pleasure in supporting them. Of course, if the Department does not formulate a policy which is practicable I intend to introduce a bill of my own. In my opinion we should do something to strengthen the army and pass some sort of militia pay bill, but I do not intend to make up my mind on these matters until I learn what the Department has to offer." The recommendations of the Department referred to will be those of the Secretary of War and will be formulated with the advice of the General Staff, composed of the ablest military experts in the country. But Chairman Hay's attitude toward such a recommendation may be gained by reading the above remarks.

Every American expert on military affairs realizes that those who, recalling the War of the Revolution and the Civil War, believe entire dependence can be placed on "citizen soldiery" called to arms and trained after the outbreak of hostilities, fall wholly to take into consideration the complexities of modern warfare as compared with that of the periods referred to. The artillery of the present day is as much more complex than that of the Civil War as the modern battleships is more complex than the fighting frigates of those days. Fighting was then done at short range and slight inaccuracies of aim of the cannon of that time were of comparatively little importance, while men could be trained to fire them with such accuracy as was required in from 60 to 90 days. But the great cannon of today have range of 8, 10 and 12 miles, and it is easy to perceive how useless and even dangerous such weapons must be in the hands of those who cannot aim them with accuracy—with an accuracy which it requires months and even years of practice to acquire, and which can be acquired only by natural aptitude. One of our greatest artillery commanders asserts that the gunners who with apparently deadly accuracy saved the day at Gettysburg could not come within a mile of hitting their objective with one of the great mortars or rifles now being used on the European

battlefields, and as practically all charges are made under the protection of artillery, the danger to our own forces of putting such weapons in the hands of incompetent gunners must be obvious. And yet today, the Coast Artillery of the United States has just halved the number of men necessary to man its defenses and in the event of war would be compelled to depend on 50 per cent of raw recruits.

The administration is determined that no more statistics will be issued from the Departments under its control that tell a story hostile to the fulfillment of democratic promises and pledges. The recent publication of Government inquiry into retail food prices was a glaring expose of the fact that although the tariff had been lowered, and to a point where American manufacturers did not receive protection, yet food prices were higher than they were before the tariff was dickered with by the democrats. The labor situation in the country shows that fewer men are employed, are working fewer hours and less wages than before the democratic party came into power, two years ago. These are unpleasant facts for the country to know—especially as the democratic promise of 1912 was that if that party were put in control of the nation, the tariff law would be revised as to keep labor employed and bring down the cost of living. The result is that the Administration has decreed that no further investigations of that kind shall be carried on and the results made known. It cloaks its purpose under the more plausible explanation that hereafter such inquiries on the part of Government Departments are to be conducted along different lines and by different methods. The result of such change will be that the statistics gathered by Government investigators will be such as cannot be compared with the conditions of previous years. This will make it almost impossible to draw the deadly parallel between Republican times and democratic times, and this is the object of the Administration in making these changes.

The sole accomplishment of this administration for the American merchant marine has been the passage of the seamen's bill, which has resulted in driving practically every American merchant ship engaged in foreign trade from the seas, or to seek registry under some other flag. The Chamber of Commerce of the United States has completed its poll on the shipping bill of the last session and 88 per cent of the 282 member organizations oppose that bill, while 93 per cent favor a postal subvention bill such as was passed by the republican congress and defeated in the eleventh hour by a democratic filibuster. If the president really wants to restore the American merchant marine the way is clearly pointed out by this poll of 282 of the leading and most experienced business organizations in the country.

What can you say to Chicago that allows such disasters as the Iroquois fire and the Eastland capsizing to happen? Somebody in officialdom in Chicago doesn't think enough.

An attempt is being made to shoulder off onto Bryan the responsibility for Sullivan, late American Minister to Santo Domingo. It was somehow in connection with Sullivan that the "deserving democrats" came into public notice; but the fact is that Sullivan was not Bryan's man. He was a White House pet. From the White House his appointment was insisted upon and it was at the White House that one found the stoutest support for him when he came under charges. So far as Sullivan is concerned, Bryan can prove an alibi. Doubtless the President and his private secretary could tell an interesting tale about Sullivan if they were so minded.

The Price of Bread

The long-standing question, since the war in Europe began, of why wheat has not gone to higher prices in Liverpool, or why prices reached there soon after the war began have not been maintained, seems to be answered in the recent communication of St. Nihal Singh to the London Observer. The St. Nihal, who is plainly an Indian of most devoted loyalty to the British Empire, and probably an official of some sort in the Indian Government, may be over-zealous in his admiration of how Great Britain has made herself partially independent of the wheat supply of the United States, but his history of the case is doubtless trustworthy as to the broad facts, although open to question in details.

The entire transaction rests upon the two facts that this year India has been blessed with a more bounteous wheat crop than ever before, and that, with an instinct which never before distinguished them, the Indian farmers and helots sowed 6,000,000 acres more to wheat than had ever been sown by them. The St. Nihal leaves us to infer that this was a mere accident, a stroke of luck, and in no way the result of calculation or official compulsion by representatives of the crown in India. The St. Nihal would have us believe that the Lord was working for Great Britain, first in moving the helots to sow much more wheat and then seeing to it, personally, that conditions were right for growing it. This interposition of Providence, he plainly thinks, was made necessary "to foil the machinations of American speculators who are taking advantage of the necessities of the allies and bleeding them." Though the Russian supply is shut off, he says, and though "the wheat kings of Chicago are straining every nerve to keep the price of wheat at an exorbitant level," Indian wheat is now reaching England in such steady and large quantities that the price of bread in England is going down.

He tells how the government took over the entire wheat exports of India. In all probability what the government has done is to take the entire Indian crop for export. The St. Nihal is not explicit in anything more than the fact that, somehow, there was an enormous increase in Indian wheat acreage, and that the government has cornered the crop. He protests that this was done as much for the sake of the consumer in India as in Great Britain. But it's a longer, longer way to India than to Tipperary, and the greater probability is that the price of bread is lower in England because it is higher in India.—Globe-Democrat.

It has long been known that Secretary Daniels had demoralized the naval service; but it required the fleet maneuvers, with the accompanying disasters to submarines and other ships, to adduce general evidence of it. Now the Eastland horror comes to prove that the steamboat service is likewise demoralized under Secretary Redfield.

The Eastland Horror

Testimony of witnesses taken at the coroner's investigation of the Eastland horror in Chicago points more strongly to the unseaworthiness of the vessel than to inefficiency and neglect of the officers or crew. The harbor master and his assistant, both of whom were witnesses of the tragedy, testified both as to over-loading and as to ineffectual efforts made by the captain of the Eastland to to ballast the ship by pumping water into the ballast tanks. Harbor Master Weckler said it was plain that water could not be pumped fast enough to stop the listing and restore a balance, because of imperfect machinery; that he had never before seen the Eastland so overloaded, and that, in its condition, it should not have been allowed to carry more than 1,200 passengers "because it did not have draft and stability enough to carry a larger load." Evidence of the un-

fitness of the vessel was offered not only by harbor officials, but by the master of the tug which was to take the Eastland out to the lake. There was concurrence of testimony on the points of unseaworthiness and of over-loading.

Walter G. Steele, owner of the Eastland, submitted government inspection certificates, including the latest one, issued by Robert Reid, July 2, 1915, at the request of Capt. Pedersen of the Eastland, that the carrying capacity of the boat should be increased. This certificate allowed the Eastland to take 2,570 passengers, an increase of 500 over previous permits. Such official complacency, in the face of facts which had long been known and the reality of which has now been so frightfully demonstrated, is impossible to understand. Yet Secretary Redfield, now in Chicago, is insisting that government supervision has not been lax.

The federal grand jury which has been investigating the case will probably indict a number of persons, government officers and officers of the boat, and perhaps such of its owners as can be identified with the effort to secure official sanction to increasing capacity far beyond the line of safety for such a ship. After the indictments must come the legal sparring for time in the courts, demurrers, pleas, motions, and all the many forms of the law's delays. The old game of waiting for the public horror to subside, and public indignation to cool, will be played over again.—Globe-Democrat.

The Boston Transcript for July 13th devotes almost a page of news to trade activities, all of which indicate the effect, directly and indirectly, of the European War. Secretary Redfield, the exportometer of the Administration tries to minimize the effect of war on our export trade. From this page of Transcript the following is gleaned:

(1) "The Mount Vernon-Woodbury Mills are running full time, with prospects more encouraging than at any previous time for years. Unfilled orders on hand on July 1 amounted to 7,500,000 pounds, principally for khaki cloth and cotton duck to be to be forwarded to Europe."

(2) "Business has been exceptionally good at the plant of the Seoknack Lace Company, Pawtucket, R. I., in the past few months, war conditions in Europe assisting largely in the extra demand."

(3) Representatives of local linen houses (New York) report that both Scotch and Irish manufacturers have been disappointed greatly over lack of flax shipments from Russia. They report that Russian mills are using much larger quantities of flax than usual for hospital supplies."

(4) "An important factor in the present trade activity in Philadelphia is an overwhelming demand for cotton and wool mixture socks for the French army. This demand is keeping the wheels of Philadelphia mills merrily humming. One Pennsylvania manufacturer has said that his concern has booked such a volume of business that he fears his mills cannot turn out the orders." This applies to the hosiery schedule which was cut to the quick by the Underwood tariff, and which the European war has resuscitated. And yet Secretary Redfield, in his address to the United States Chamber of commerce, at its annual meeting, February 15th, said: "I beg of you, gentlemen, not to be persuaded by the daily news columns of the press into the belief that our foreign trade lies chiefly in what we may call for lack of a better name, 'war orders.' That is not so." And the audience smiled.

From May, 1914, to May, 1915, the railroads of the country were compelled to lay off 120,000 men. These men will prove exceedingly difficult to convince of the administration's handmade "prosperity" when the time comes for voting next year.

Cost of a Murder Trial

It is a very difficult task to estimate the actual cost of a murder trial. The costs bills paid by the county and state are sometimes only a small part of the actual cost of such trials. The killing of a human being is a frightful thing, and you can not estimate the costs in dollars and cents. The sorrow, grief and suffering that comes to the family of the decedent, as well as to the family of the murderer and prisoner, is frightful, and is so far reaching that we shrink from comment on it. And then the innocent often suffer most in these cases. And when we come to think about it, in about nine out of ten killings, the drink is at the bottom of it and the leading cause, the act becomes of such frightful proportions that we shrink from speculation on the many cases that come to our notice, but we ought to more kindly indulge those persons whom we denominate cranks that are giving so much of their time and means to regulate and suppress this abominable traffic.

The cost bill in the Peake murder case has been audited and the county treasurer has a draft in hand to pay those who have claims in this case. The bill as originally certified by the circuit judge and prosecuting attorney amounted to \$1,366.93, but the auditor trimmed it down to \$1,302.40. This amount does not include the costs of the defendant's witnesses nor the cost of summoning them. It does not include many items of court cost that cannot be put into a cost bill. There is the cost of transporting this prisoner to the Springfield jail for safe-keeping, as Taney county had no jail at the time this crime was committed, which had to be borne by the county. And then there are the attorney fees paid by the prisoner and his friends and the numerous other expenses attendant upon a trial of this character that can hardly be estimated. And then there are numerous other items of cost that the family of the deceased and his friends have had to bear, in the way of employing additional counsel to assist the state and other expenses that are usually incurred in such trials.

Murder trials do not come very often in Taney county, but when her citizens take into account the fearful costs and the far-reaching effects of the killing of one of our citizens, then we stand aghast, and wonder if we are not derelict in the discharge of many duties of citizenship, and wonder if we do not fail to remove temptations that help to bring about most of these frightful occurrences. Just let your mind recur to the several murders that have occurred in Taney county in the past twenty years, and see how many of them were connected with drunkenness, and then decide for yourself as to the blame that should attach to this awful cause of crime in our land, and then as good citizens resolve to do your full duty in the future as you see it.—W. R. Adams.

These are dog days, but the dog must be muzzled, so mild are they.

With Edison in charge of submarine defense; and and Wright to superintend aeroplane construction, Bo'sn Daniels will cling to his old position, "halfway 'twixt wind and water."

The democratic party is blessed with a rare kind of perspective; in the days of good old Republican prosperity it could see nothing but calamity, while now that real calamity is present, it sees nothing but prosperity. This is indeed psychology.

The leaders of the progressive party in New York have held a meeting, had a discussion, and voted, by a slender margin, to retain the party's identity "for the present." It makes little difference what the leaders of the party may vote to do. The membership of the party has gone back to the Republican ranks.